

THE

Thurrock Urban District Council

Library



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Healthi

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORTS OF THE

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Chief Public Health Inspector F

and the Public Analyst PROPICAL

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For the Year 1964



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For the Year 1964

GRAYS
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CONTENTS

	P	age
Members of the Public Health Committee	••••	3
Staff of the Public Health Department		4
SECTION "A"—		
Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area	,	6
SECTION "B"—		
General Provision of Health Services for the	Area	8
SECTION "C"—		
Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Notifiable diseases		14
SECTION "D"—		
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	••••	18
SECTION "E"—		
Housing	:···	34
SECTION "F"—		
Factories Acts, 1937—1961	••••	41
Section "G"—		
Shops and Offices		43
SECTION "H"—		
Inspection and Supervision of Food (including of Public Analyst)		48

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1964)

Chairman: M. B. Jones

Vice-Chairman: K. C. V. TALBOT

Councillors: R. G. BALL

W. D. BUCHAN

J. CLARK

A. J. Toft

Mrs. E. A. WHALLEY

R. YOUNGMAN

URBAN DISTRICT OF THURROCK PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Acting Medical Officer of Health:

R. D. PEARCE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the County of Essex.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

P. J. RODEN, L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. A. Gosling, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. M. ANDERSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

Public Health Inspectors:

T. B. NUTTALL, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3) (Appointed Sept., 1964)

D. G. STRIPP, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

A. G. Brimble, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2) (Appointed Oct., 1964) S. A. Hughes, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2) (Resigned June, 1964)

J. L. McGarry, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2)

G. R. DOVEY, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3)

J. Foster, (1, 2, 3)

M. H. Young, M.A.P.H.I. (1, 2, 3) (Appointed Sept., 1964)

Indicates Certificates: R.S.I. and S.I. Exam. Jt.Bd.
 Indicates Certificate: Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.
 Indicates Certificate: Smoke Inspection.

Public Analyst:

THOS. McLachlan, A.C.G.F.C., F.R.I.C.

Veterinary Officers (Part-time)

E. DIXON, B.SC., M.R.C.V.S.

M. A. CLARK, M.R.C.V.S.

Clerical Assistant—Public Health Department:

Mrs. D. Sayers

Chief Clerk—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department: S. V. EDWARDS

Trainee Public Health Inspectors:

J. MALTON

G. L. PAGE, Affil. R.S.H.

Clerical Assistants—Chief Public Health Inspector's Department:

S. A. Locking (Appointed June, 1964)

Mrs. E. Browne

Mrs. E. CLAYDEN

Rodent Officer: C. L. WILKINSON

Rodent Operative: J. Perry

Mortuary Attendants:

C. Parsley (Resigned 3rd July, 1964)

E. C. WHITBREAD (from 6th July, 1964)

R. W. LENNIE (from 6th July, 1964)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE THURROCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the state of the Health in Thurrock for 1964. The Health of the district has remained at a high level.

The report includes that of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. H. A. Gosling, and that of the Public Analyst.

The population of the district increased by 1,240 during the year.

Courses in Food Hygiene were continued during the year at the Thurrock Technical College. These courses are arranged by the Staff of the Technical College, although the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and myself have been invited to give the Lectures. The Courses are open to anyone, although they are primarily designed for workers in the Food Industry. Those who attend the Course can sit for the examination in Food Hygiene of the Royal Institute of Public Health. The examination results of the Courses held so far have given encouragement.

In conclusion it is a pleasure to record my thanks to the Members of the Public Health Department for their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. D. PEARCE,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department, 34 Cresthill Avenue, Grays, Essex.

Telephone: Grays Thurrock 4641/4.

SECTION "A"

Land Area of the District (in Acres)	42,000
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated Mid-Year 1964)	118,390
No. of Inhabited Houses or Flats (according to Rate Books as at 31.12.64) Rateable Value (at 31.3.64)	33,554 £6,792,790
Product of a 1d. Rate (at 31.3.64)	£27,758

The Urban District of Thurrock stretches along the northern bank of the River Thames, having approximately 18 miles of river frontage. The area adjoining the river is industrial and contains two of the chief centres of population — Grays and Tilbury.

The principal industries are the manufacture of cement, margarine, cardboard, footwear, detergents, nitric acid and chemical fertilisers. In addition there are the oil refineries at Coryton and Shell Haven, the oil storage undertakings at Thames Haven, Grays and Purfleet and the docks at Tilbury.

Inland, the principal occupation is agriculture and the district includes many market gardens and dairy farms.

A large number of the inhabitants travel daily to work in London.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS		hurrock n District
Live Births:		
Number—(1,036 Males, 1,055 Females)	• • • •	2,091
Rate per 1,000 estimated (Crude).	• • • •	17.66
Mid-Year Home Population (Adjusted).	• • • •	17.48
Illegitimate Live Births percentage of tot Live Births	al	5.45

Stillbirths: Number—(27 Males, 13 Females) 40 Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 18.77 Total live and stillbirths 2,131 DEATHS Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year): Number—(15 Males, 14 Females) 29 Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 13.87 Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate Live Births 13.15 Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births 26.32 Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks) (8 Males, 9 Females) per 1,000 total Live Births 8.13 Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week) (6 Males, 7 Females) per 1,000 total Live Births 6.22 Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under one week combined) per 1.000 total live and stillbirths 24.87 Maternal Mortality (including abortion): Number of deaths Nil Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 0.0All Causes: Number—(479 Males, 423 Females) 902 Death rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-Year Home Population (Crude) 7.62 (Adjusted) 11.12

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The staff of the Public Health Department have been enumerated at the commencement of this Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological Laboratory facilities are provided as in the past years by the N.E. Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board and whilst the main Laboratory is situated in Billericay at St. Andrew's Hospital, good facilities exist at Orsett Hospital in the area. The thanks of the Council to the Tilbury and South East Essex Hospital Management Committee should be given in that the co-operation received during the year has been extremely good. The list of examinations which can be carried out is very comprehensive and of a widely varying scope but relates very greatly to pathological reports upon such specimens as Cerebro-Spinal Fluids, blood, faeces, etc. In addition the area is served by the Public Health Laboratory at Southend-on-Sea where all examinations of milk, water, ice-cream, etc., are carried out. Biological examination of milk is undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory, London Road, Chelmsford. Virus investigations are also carried out by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford. These Public Health Laboratories are administered by the Medical Research Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance facilities in the district are adequate. The Service is administered centrally and is the responsibility of the Essex County Council. Over the last few years the number of vehicles and personnel have been increased very greatly. The ambulance service is an expensive service and every effort should be made by the users of the service to ensure that ambulances are not used when they are, in fact, not required. Certain of the larger local firms provide their own vehicles.

Ambulance Vehicles	• • • •		••••	5
Dual Purpose Vehicles		••••	• • • •	4
Total cases conveyed	• • • •	••••	• • • •	42,904
Stretcher cases	• • • •		3,246	
Other cases		• • • •	39,658	
Total Mileage	• • • •		••••	239,349
Total emergency cases			••••	3,855

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nursing Service of the area can be said to be reasonably well served although recruitment is difficult and there is a shortage of nursing staff. In the district as a whole there are employed 11 full-time and 3 part-time Nurses. The number of visits paid to patients' homes was 37,731 during 1964.

PROVISION OF NURSING APPLIANCES IN THE HOME.

On application numerous articles of equipment for the patients in their homes are supplied. Such articles include bedrests, bedpans, bed cradles, commodes, mattresses, wheelchairs in and out-door, air cushions, air rings, etc. The main depot for distribution is at Whitehall Lodge, Whitehall Lane, Grays. Nursing equipment on loan for the sick, does not, as a rule, include specialised equipment for the permanently incapacitated. This is a very valuable service and much appreciated by patients and has been greatly extended during the year under review.

HEALTH CENTRES, COMBINED TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

On the following pages will be found a list of these clinics and treatment Centres. It should be noted that there is one Health Centre built in the Year 1955 from which not only the services of the Local Health Authority function, but also General Medical and Dental Services. In this Centre there are four suites of consulting rooms for Medical Practitioners and one suite for a Dental Practitioner, together with accommodation for the Local Health Authority Services for Speech Therapy and for Ophthalmology. In addition facilities have been made available to the Probation Officers, the Registrar of Births and Deaths and the Children's Officer.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The establishment of midwives in the area is 16 full-time and 1 part-time and it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill vacancies in this branch of the service. The co-operation of the Local Authority in providing housing accommodation is of great assistance in filling a vacant post.

HEALTH VISITING SERVICES.

The establishment for Thurrock is 16 full-time and 1 part-time Health Visitors. The Health Visitors have to assist them 14 parttime School Nurses. The duties of the Health Visitors have been widely extended in the last few years to include domiciliary care of all within their areas, not only of mothers and young children but also the aged.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICES.

The staff for the Thurrock area comprises: —

(a) Full-time Domestic Helps	••••	1
(b) Regular part-time Domestic	Helps	119
(c) Casual Domestic Helps		155

This service has increased very greatly over the last ten years. The services, initiated for assistance to be given in households during confinements, is now very largely extended to chronic sick as well.

WOMEN'S WELFARE.

Women's Welfare Clinics are held at Grays, Aveley and the London County Council Estate. At these clinics advice is given on medical grounds in regard to family planning etc., in addition to the Family Planning Association Clinic held at the Grays Welfare Centre, The Park, Grays.

ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES CLINICS THURROCK DISTRICT

District	Details of Clinic	Address
Aveley	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P.	Health Services Clinic, Hall Lane, Aveley
Aveley Health Centre	Child Welfare & Chiropody Relaxation Classes & Women's Welfare Minor Ailments Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Midwives Booking Session	Health Services Centre, Darenth Lane, Aveley
Bulphan	Mothers and Children either attend at Stanford or Grays Chiropody (Village Hall)	
Chadwell-StMary	Child Welfare & Chiropody Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, River View, Chadwell-StMary

District	Details of Clinic	Address
Corringham	Child Welfare & Chiropody Immunisation and Vaccination	Memorial Hall, Corringham
East Tilbury	Child Welfare Midwives Booking Session	The Bungalow, Station Road, East Tilbury
Grays	Child Welfare Ante-natal Women's Welfare Family Planning Chiropody O.A.P. Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, The Park, Grays
Horndon-on-the-Hill	Child Welfare	Community Hall, High Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill
Purfleet and West Thurrock	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P.	Health Services Clinic, London Road, and Day Nursery, W. Thurrock
Stanford-le-Hope	Child Welfare Ante-natal Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination	Health Services Clinic, St. Margaret's Hall, Stanford-le-Hope
Grays North	Child Welfare Ante-natal Ante-natal Exercises Post-natal Exercises Mothercraft Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P.	Health Services Clinic, Stifford Long Lane, Grays
Tilbury	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody O.A.P.	Health Services Clinic, Newton Road, Tilbury
South Ockendon	Child Welfare Ante-natal Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination Chiropody	Health Services Clinic, 107 South Road, South Ockendon

DAY NURSERIES.

There are two Day Nurseries in the area at Grays and West Thurrock. In each Nursery there are 30 places.

CHIROPODY.

One whole-time and one part-time chiropodist who visit the homes of the aged and infirm and carries out treatment in the clinics is employed. The chiropodists also visit Bennett Lodge, a home for the aged.

IMMUNISATION.

During 1964 the following Immunisation procedures were carried out either by private medical practitioners or by the staff of the Essex County Health Service.

Triple (Diphtheria, Pertussis,

Tipio (Dipientolia, i olivassi	.09				
Tetanus).	1,857	• • • •	Triple (Boosts)	• • • •	958
Diphtheria/Tetanus	121	• • • •	Boosts	• • • •	144
Tetanus	1,828	• • • •	Boosts	• • • •	1,577
Diphtheria	8	• • • •	Boosts	• • • •	601
Whooping Cough	3		Boosts		288
Smallpox Vaccination	1,135	• • •	Re-vaccinations		288
Poliomyelitis					
1st and 2nd Injections	107	• • • •	Boosts	• • • •	107
Poliomyelitis (Oral)					
Primary Course	1,957	• • • •	Boosts	• • • •	1,151

HOSPITAL SERVICES are provided by the North East Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board at 3 hospitals.

- 1. Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital (Orsett Branch)
- 2. Tilbury and Riverside General Hospital (Tilbury Branch).
- 3. Thurrock Hospital—Diseases of the Chest—Tuberculosis.

A new out-patients' Department has been Built at Orsett Hospital to serve the district and a new Hospital is being built.

MOBILE MEALS.

The Women's Voluntary Services have a limited distribution of meals on certain days upon application. The Local Authority makes an annual grant of £600 towards this service. I am indebted to Mrs. G. F. Taylor, Organiser for the following information.

Grays	Area:	
-------	-------	--

Approximate No.	of	Meals	Distr	ibuted		6,635
Total Mileage	•••		••		••••	5,100

Stanford-le-Hope Area:—

Approximate No.	of]	Meals	Distr	ibuted	• • • •	1,900
Total Mileage	• • • •	• •	• •	• • • •	••••	598

Housing.

The Council have 9,675 Council Houses and in addition the London County Council, the East Ham Borough Council and the West Ham Borough Council have built estates. Despite this there still remains a total number of 4,795 upon the waiting list for houses. The allocation of Thurrock Council Houses is dealt with upon a points scheme and the Medical Officer of Health recommends extra points upon medical evidence submitted on behalf of the patients. During the year under review 250 cases were investigated and points awarded.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health medically examines entrants to the Council's Service and deals with medical questions arising in regard to examinations as to the fitness of an employee to remain in the Council's Service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47)

No action was taken during the year under the above Act.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

The South Essex Crematorium situated over the boundary of the district at Corbets Tey is carried on with the Borough of Romford and the Urban District of Hornchurch. The Medical Officers of Health of the constituent authorities act as Medical Referees and during the year the remains of 352 persons from the Thurrock area were disposed of.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE CITY AND PORT OF LONDON.

The Urban District of Thurrock contains Tilbury Docks, into which an enormous amount of shipping arrives and two Assistant Medical Officers of the Essex County Health Service working in the Thurrock district act as Boarding Officers.

SECTION "C"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE		Notified	Confirmed	Hospital	Deaths
				,	
	,				
Scarlet Fever	• • •	85	85		
Dysentery	•••	41 -			
Pneumonia (Acute a Influenzal)	and	8	8		
Infective Hepatitis	• • •	64	64		
Whooping Cough	•••	141	141		
Measles	• • •	696	696		
Er ysi pel a s	• • •	5	5		
Puerperal Pyrexia	• • •	8	6	6	
Food Poisoning	• • •	149	46		
Meningitis	• • •	6	6	I	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

									-
DISEASE		Under 1 year	I-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.		15-24 25 yrs. yrs.	Total
Scarlet Fever	•	1	II	12	54	9	8		85
Infective Hepatitis	•	1			12	II	21	20	64
Puerperal Pyrexia	•	1					4	4	∞
Dysentery	•	2	3	9	2	5	7	13	41
Pneumonia	•	7	6	3	10	3	5	II	48
Erysipelas	•	1						2	22
Whooping Cough	•	14	42	30	42	12	I	1	141
Measles	•	28	891	182	301	14	4	1	969
Food Poisoning	•	4	17	4	6	7	44	64	149
Meningitis	•	61	Н	H	Н			Н	9

FOOD POISONING, &C.

The number of cases of dysentery notified shows a remarkable decrease whilst the number of cases of Suspected Food Poisoning shows some reduction.

Particular mention must be made of an outbreak of food poisoning involving an industrial canteen, which occured during the year. Some forty-six persons were affected and faecal, nose and throat specimens from the canteen staff revealed the cause to be staphylococcus aureus which had infected cream used for the making of chocolate eclairs. Phage typing showed the same organism to be present in the nose of the pastry cook and the cream. The canteen staff were immediately excluded from work and the outbreak ceased.

It is the practice to take faecal specimens from each notified case of food poisoning or dysentery in which food handlers are involved (whether as patients or contacts) and if a positive result is obtained, three negative specimens are required before he or she is permitted to resume work. Such specimens are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff-on-Sea.

During the year 42 persons were excluded from work and in two cases compensation for loss of earnings was made.

The following table shows the number of faecal and urine specimens or throat swabs submitted by the department during the year.

			Posi	tive
Taken From	Total	Negativ e	Staph. Aureus	Shig. Flex.
Food Handlers	86	79	7	
Non-Food Handlers	107	104	2	I

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

		New	Cases			Dea	aths	
Age periods	Respi	ratory	Non-F	Resp'ry	Respi	ratory	Non-R	lesp'ry
•	M .	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
		****					1	
Under 1			I					
ı year	_	I						
2-4 yrs.	—							
5-9 ,,	I							_
10-14 ,,	I	I	I		_	_		
15-19 ,,		2					_	
20-24 ,,	I	I			_			
25-34 ,,	2	I	2					-
35-44 ,,	6	2	I		2			
45-54 ,,	6							
55-64 ,,	2	2		2	I			
65-74 ,,	I		0.1.11		_			
75 up- wards	3		_		I			_
Totals	23	10	5	2	4			

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR SECTION "D"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The principal water supply of the area is provided by South Essex Waterworks Company, the vast majority of the premises in the district being served thereby. A small part of the area at Langdon Hills is served by the Southend Waterworks Company.

The water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year and is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

No. of samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination: —

(a) From Public	Mains	 	 12
(b) From Wells.	etc.	 	

No. of samples taken and submitted for chemical examination:—

(a)	From	Public	Mains	 • • • •		3
(b)	From	Wells		 	••••	

In all cases samples were satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

No. of dwellinghouses supplied from	
public water mains direct	33,531
Estimated population served	118,310
No. of houses supplied from public	
water mains supplied by standpipes	20
Estimated population served	70
No. of houses served by wells or stored	
rain water	3
Estimated population served	10

Those properties supplied by standpipes refer to premises forming part of the Dunton Hills Estate. The laying of water mains would be very expensive and moreover, it is thought that some of the land will revert to agriculture in the not too distant future.

The three remaining houses supplied by wells are situated in the more remote rural portion of the area where the cost of providing a mains supply is very expensive. In addition there are two wells

at one of the oil refineries, the water from which is used for drinking and domestic purposes.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS.

Total amount of rain which fell during the year	19.92 ins.
Number of days on which rain fell	137
Heaviest rainfall on any one day	1.43 ins.
No. of hours of sunshine	1,446

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

By far the greater proportion of the Urban District is sewered. The village of Bulphan on the northern boundary, together with parts of Linford, Fobbing and Orsett are the principal areas not yet sewered.

During the year the North Stifford Village Sewerage Scheme was completed and has resulted in the abolition of many cesspools. Eight pail closets were to be converted, but at the close of the year all these conversions had not been carried out owing to the fact that the properties involved were in process of being sold. It is hoped that this work will have been completed by the end of 1965.

The Linford Sewerage Scheme has been commenced and entails the conversion of five pail closets to water closets.

A draft scheme is in course of preparation regarding the Orsett Village Sewerage Scheme and this will probably include most of the properties on Orsett Heath.

A major Sewerage Scheme is likely to be submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for loan sanction during 1965, i.e. The Eastern Area High Level Scheme which will enable the Corringham Sewage Disposal Works to be closed. The sewage from Fobbing and Corringham will be conveyed through the new trunk sewer to the Stanford-le-Hope Sewage Works.

Further extensions to the Stanford-le-Hope Sewage Works will be entailed by the scheme and this will also be the subject of a loan application.

On completion of the above schemes the sewage from the entire district will be dealt with either at the Main Disposal Works at Marsh Farm, West Tilbury or the extended Stanford-le-Hope Works.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The principal river in the area is the Thames, on the north bank of which the Thurrock Urban District stands. In addition, the Mardyke rises above Bulphan and Orsett Fens and discharges into the Thames at Aveley. There are in addition, various small tidal streams which also discharge into the Thames.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There were 820 cesspools and 335 pail closets in the area at the close of the year. Although the number of cesspools has fallen, owing to connections being made to the sewer, a number of new cesspools have been constructed and these are all of modern dimensions so that the work content in vehicle loads has risen.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by the Public Cleansing Department and no important change in general arrangements for the disposal and collection of refuse has taken place. However, in the case of schools, bulk storage containers have been installed throughout the area and this system is to be extended to blocks of flats.

It is the policy of the Council to empty household dustbins and pail closets weekly and cesspools fortnightly.

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on a site at Baker Street, Orsett, although this site is becoming full and it will become necessary to consider a further site.

The Municipal Dustbin Scheme is proceeding satisfactorily, although the possibility of supplying larger dustbins in the future is being investigated.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are within the area, ten swimming baths as follows:—

Public		• • • •	 • • • •		1
Private	ž 0 + +		 • • • •	• • • •	2
Schools			 	****	7

At the beginning of the year the new public bath at Blackshots Playing Field was opened and has proved a popular addition to the facilities in the area.

The bath is 110 ft. x 42 ft. and slopes from 3 ft. to 12 ft. 6 ins.

Its capacity is 220,000 gallons, with a four-hourly turnover. The cycle of operations is prechlorination, treatment with soda ash and alumina, pressure filtration, final chlorination followed by heating to 78°F and aeration.

Unfortunately, during the early part of the year, a fire occured in the boilerhouse which resulted in damage to the bath and the public hall. This led to the closure of the bath for several weeks.

The two private baths are situated upon premises of large industrial undertakings. They are of the open-air type and are provided with continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination units.

Of the seven school baths, three are of the "indoor" type with continuous circulatory filtration and chlorination units. The remaining four are "outdoor" baths open only during the summer and are mainly for tuition purposes—the cost of which was met largely by voluntary subscription. Although these are fitted with circulatory and chlorination units, they are of more elementary design and close supervision is necessary if a satisfactory water is to be maintained.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 62, 61 of which were satisfactory. The single unsatisfactory sample related to one of the schools at which the chlorination apparatus had broken down.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one common lodging house in the area—situated at the junction of High Street and West Street, Grays—and this provides accommodation for 21 persons.

The premises are old, poorly constructed and with minimum facilities. They come within the area of Grays Central Redevelopment Scheme and will presumably be dealt with in phrase two of the scheme within the next five years.

Regular visits are necessary to ensure compliance with the regulations and during the year 31 such visits were made.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement.

The area contains many large industrial plants situated along the river front and the department pays regular attention to factory chimneys with a view to ensuring that smoke is not emitted in such quantities as to infringe the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958.

There is an increasing tendency for coal-fired units to be converted to oil and of the 71 new furnaces notified over the past five years 68 have been oil fired, one gas fired, one coal fired and one a special type of furnace for burning sawdust and wood shavings.

The policy of oil firing is to be commended in the sense that it leads to the abolition of grit and a reduction in the amount of

smoke. However, unless the chimney stacks are properly lagged the formation of acid smuts takes place and their discharge from the chimney can and does give rise to complaint.

Unfortunately the emission of sulphur dioxide is not reduced, indeed it may be increased. No practicable or economic means exist for the removal of sulphur from oil and the modern policy is to disperse it by means of high chimneys.

Complaints regarding smoke have been very few and observations have established persistent nuisance in respect of two chimneys—one from a local hospital whose new boilerhouse should be completed by the end of 1965—the other from a wood-burning installation whose new plant should come into operation early in 1965.

ALKALI, ETC. WORKS.

The following works are now under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector and complete co-operation exists between him and this department:—

Cement Production	4
Synthetic Detergent Plant (bisulphite section)	1
Oil Refining, etc	4
Electricity Production	3
Nitric Acid Production	2
Recovery of non-ferrous Metals	1
Ammonia	2
Chemical Manure	1
Acid Sludge	1

The two nitric acid plants utilise ammonia which is synthesised at one of the plants for conversion into nitric acid and from thence into ammonium nitrate and nitro-chalk for use as fertilisers. Both plants are working and during the year no complaints have been received. During normal working there is no reason to believe the discharge will exceed the limit laid down by the Alkali Inspectorate.

The West Thurrock Generating Station is in operation and it should not be too long before the station is in full production. Work on the new Tilbury "B" Generating Station is proceeding.

It is interesting to note that, whilst Tilbury "A" Station is oil-fired, both Tilbury "B" and West Thurrock will be coal fired.

Complaints regarding malodorous emissions from the Oil Refineries occur on isolated occasions and are noticeable particularly during weather conditions involving "temperature inversion" and the wind is from the east or south-east. It can only be

said that the nuisance potential, far greater than for any other industry, is so vast that it is only by continued and meticulous attention to the supervision of operations and to the maintenance of the plant that justified complaint over a wide area is prevented. Some short term but occasional and localised justified complaint is inevitable with every large refinery.

There remains, of course, the problem of cement dust which is the principal single source of atmospheric pollution in Thurrock and the one which is the most frequent source of public comment.

Following a public meeting held in 1963, the Council sent a deputation to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and put before the Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary several points which, in their opinion, would lead to an improvement in tht present situation. A full and frank discussion took place the outcome of which was that the District Alkali, etc. Inspectors have been asked to regard cement dust on Thameside as "priority number one."

So far as the works themselves are concerned it is well to recall that of the twenty-eight kilns on Thameside, thirteen are in Thurrock. All are fitted with electro-static precipitators—some of advanced design and of high efficiency. It is probable that the overall average dust slip is about 0.4 grains per cubic foot, but in areas of intensive production and for all new plant the target is now less than 0.2 grains per cubic foot. By the replacement of older precipitators it is to be hoped that this standard will be achieved, but there is no short cut to its fulfilment and complaint is likely for some years to come.

From time to time members of the public have compared one cement works with another upon the basis of the density of the plume emitted from the chimneys. This, however, is a most unreliable criterion. Slurry fed into the kilns contains 40% of water and this is evaporated and discharged via the chimney stack, together with dust and the normal products of combustion.

In some cement works the exit gas temperature is high with the result that condensation does not take place until the gases have risen for some distance above the chimney top. In other works where the gas temperature may be 100°F. lower, condensation takes place immediately the gases leave the chimney top. This can account for the dense white plume seen from some chimneys.

Periodic tests are carried out by the Alkali, etc. Works Inspector for the detection of hydrogen sulphide—an evil smelling gas which is sometimes emitted from cement works—but the fact remains that these emissions, which are largely preventable, still take place.

Installation of Furnaces and Chimneys.

(1)	No. of notificat	ions of	constru	iction o	of new	furnace	s	8
	(a) Coal fired	• • • •	• • • •			• • • •	• • • •	1
	(b) Oil fired	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	••••		····	6
	(c) Gas fired				* * * *	• • • •		Nil
	(d) Special type	(sawdu	st and	wood	shaving	gs)	• • • •	1
(2)	No. of applicat	ions for	Prior	Appro	oval			4
	No. Granted	• • • •		* * * *		* * * *	••••	4

In all cases agreement was subsequently reached on the question of chimney heights.

By-Laws.

By-laws exist under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which require new buildings to be provided with only such appliances for heating and cooking as are suitably designed for burning authorised smokeless fuels. Their enforcement is carried out by the Building Inspectors.

SMOKE CONTROL.

During the year, a third Smoke Control Order was confirmed by the Minister and comes into operation on 1st September, 1965. This area includes the Council's Estate at Stifford Clays and involves works of adaptation to 567 private dwellinghouses and 238 Council houses.

The estimated cost of these conversions (based upon the provision of room heaters) exceeds £26,000. The wider choice of appliances now available to the public and which rank for grant, has led to the original estimate of expenditure being tripled. It is to the Council's credit that they have not allowed this increased cost to deflect them from their policy of smoke control.

Electrical radiant heaters do not rank for grant and whilst approved open fire appliances are authorised, no encouragement for their use is given.

Particulars of the area now under smoke control are as follows:—

Area	ı	• • • •	• • • •		• • • •	2,896	acres
No.	of	dwellingho	ouses	* • • •		7,090	
99	99	shops	• • • •	••••		95	
9 9	99	schools	• • • •		• • • •	14	
99	9.9	Industrial	prem	ises		16	
,,	97	Miscellane	eous p	remises	: • • •	25	

This means that 21.1% of houses in the Urban District are now smoke controlled.

MEASURING INSTRUMENTS.

Three deposit gauges are maintained by the Council, who, during the year, rejoined the Thameside Joint Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution, and the monthly results are forwarded to that body. In February, 1964 the use of the peroxide cylinder was discontinued in favour of the more revealing daily volumetric apparatus.

The readings from these gauges for the year are as follows:—

Month 1964	Tons po	er square mile Kennington's School Site	Mg. p Ward Avenue Site	er 100 sq. Cm. Sulphur Trioxide
January	45.24	27.11	38.12	2.54
February	33.57	19.61	18.85	2.89
March	22.54	19.00	14.59	
April	36.54	17.42	40.69	Balling June
May	29.31	15.97	35.70	
June	25.78	19.97	33.21	_
July	24.66	15.11	32.42	
August	19.30	22.26	21.45	
September	29.11	14.92	24.67	darent Landonian
October	37.34	24.02	30.08	
November	50.65	17.48	37.56	gyphinnin io
December	29.19	12.03	22.45	gyphinninha
		Alexandralis discourance, passassirone		
Average	31.93	18.74	29.15	
	4.50			
Av'ge 1964	31.93	18.74	29.15	
,, 1963	27.45	14.08	21.57	
,, 1962	28.40	14.73	26.42	

These results include not only cement dust, but dust, grit and gritty particles from all sources.

During the year the Council installed a fourth Combined Smoke/Volumetric instrument for the daily recording of smoke and sulphur dioxide. The apparatus is situated at the Day Nursery, London Road, West Thurrock.

The readings from these instruments were as follows:—

1	0.5	1													ı		
WEST THURROCK	$ m KatioS/S.O_2$										0.70	0.83	0.76	0.76		0.76	
г тни	Micrograms/cu.M./Air moke S.O ₂ Ratio S		1			1				1	146	175	17	164		164	
WES	Microg Smoke		1				-	1		1	103	145	130	126		126	
-HOPE	n.M./Air Ratio S/S.O ₂	0.81	0.72	69.0	0.49	0.31	0.33	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.81	0.76	0.85	0.57		0.57	
ORD-LE	rams/cu S.O ₂	211	211	126	100	93	73	64	56	79	131	166	169	123		123	
STANFORD-LE-HOPE	Microg Smoke	171	153	8.7	49	29	24	23	19	50	107	127	144	80		80	
SI	Micrograms/cu.M./Air noke S.O ₂ Ratio S./S.O ₂	0.65	0.55	0.53	0.37	0.24	0.42	0.45	0.39	0.35	0.59	0.55	0.94	0.50		0.50	0.51
BELHUS	ograms/c S.O ₂	233	218	116	102	98	69	35	53	81	144	174	172	124		124	115
	Micro Smoke	152	120	62	38	21	29	16	21	29	98	96	160	69		69	65
SO.	Microgram/scu.M./Air toke S.O ₂ Ratio S/S.O ₂	0.88	0.81	1.16	89.0	0.62	0.70	0.78	0.20	19.0	0.78	0.83	0.98	0.75		0.75	0.86
GRAYS	gram/sci S.O ₂	257	244	85	113	73	70	89	92	98	7	193	152	131		131	117
	Micro Smoke	228	197	66	77	45	46	53	19	53	114	160	149	103		103	105
	Mth.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ave.	Ave.:	1961	1963 1962

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

In addition to the treatment of verminous premises (detailed elsewhere in this report) the Council assists occupiers of premises in the eradication of other pests, e.g. earwigs, ants and wasps, either by the sale of suitable insecticides or by disinfestation, for which a charge is made, the latter procedure being used in the case of wasps nests. The department would prefer not to carry out work of this nature as no public health problem is involved, but it is appreciated that wasps nests are sometimes difficult to destroy and the use of special apparatus is often necessary. During the year under review, seventeen nests were dealt with either by the use of cyanide or liquid insecticide.

When certain infectious diseases occur (e.g. Smallpox, Poliomyelitis, Meningococcal Infection) rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde and the bedding has hitherto been removed for steam sterilisation to the Orsett Hopital.

At the present time, however, the apparatus at this hospital is not in use, and negotiations are in progress with the Hospital Management Committee in an endeavour to provide facilities for steam sterilisation.

The number of rooms so fumigated was 4 and in 4 cases bedding was removed.

The department also undertakes the clearing of private drains where blockage occurs and a charge of ten shillings is made for this purpose. The number of dwellinghouses which are owner/occupied is greatly increasing and the occupants of such premises do not appear to realise that the legal liability for clearing drains rests with them. The original intention of the service was to help those who were unable to obtain the services of a builder, but the stage has been reached where owners demand that their drains be cleared as a matter of right. The time devoted to this, is at the expense of the Rodent Officer's primary duty, i.e., the destruction of rats and mice.

During the year drains were cleared in 80 instances.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Rodent Officer deals with all complaints regarding rodent infestations. Private dwellinghouses are treated without cost but trade premises are charged on a basis of total cost plus Establishment Charges. Estimates are not given unless requested, owing to the difficulty of determining how many visits are likely to be made before the premises are cleared.

The Rodent Officer carries out treatments at sewage works, refuse tips and to the Council's sewers, but the number of com-

plaints received is so large that proper attention cannot be given to this aspect of the work.

Warfarin is used in connection with all premises and sodium fluoroacetate for the treatment of sewers.

The following table shows the work of the Rodent Staff during the year: —

	Local Authority Premises	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	All Other Premises	TOTAL
 I. Number of properties inspected as a result of: (a) Notification (b) Survey under the Act (c) Otherwise 	25 — 39	558 — 1601	109 — 1178	692 — 2818
2. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 1) which were found to be infested by: (a) Rats Minor (b) Mice Major Minor		438 ————————————————————————————————————	1 49 — 59	1 510 — 181
3. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 2) treated by the Local Authority	25	558	109	692
4. Total treatments carried out incl. retreatments	31	558	115	704

SCRAP METAL DEALERS.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act. 1964, comes into operation on 1st April, 1965, and requires all scrap metal dealers to be registered with the local authority. Section 85 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 is thereby repealed.

The previous register has now been revised and the number of dealers now in operation is eleven.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences to keep Pet Shops issued during the year was 5.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

No premises in the area are registered under the above mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

The authority for the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950—the Essex County Council—have delegated to the Council their functions regarding the licensing of boiling plants for animal feeding stuffs.

The importance of adequate boiling of waste food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised for it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest.

The number of plants licensed during the year was 23.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

This Act came into operation on 1st January, 1964, and requires establishments used for the boarding of cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Council have appointed two qualified Veterinary Officers on a part-time basis to make periodic inspections of all establishments and to submit a report prior to applications for licences being considered. In addition routine inspections are made during the year.

During 1964, four boarding establishments were licensed by the Council.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1964.

This Act comes into operation on 1st April, 1965, and requires Riding Establishments to be licensed annually by the local authority.

The Veterinary Officers dealing with Animal Boarding Establishments have been appointed for the purpose of the inspection and licensing of these establishments.

CHILDREN'S NIGHTDRESSES REGULATIONS, 1964.

These Regulations were made under the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, and requires that children's nightdresses shall be made of material which complies with the low flammability requirements specified in the Regulations.

A list of authorised laboratories has been published to whom samples may be sent by the local authority.

Arrangements have been made for a specified number of samples to be taken from 1965 onwards.

NOISE ABATEMENT.

Complaints regarding noise seem to be increasing and one cannot help but wonder whether or not the public are becoming more intolerant and are failing to realise that one must, to some extent, "live with the times." Obviously persons cannot be expected to tolerate noise from an industrial undertaking which continually disturbs the sleep of the neighbourhood, but it should be realised that some noises are inevitable and a factory cannot always be run silently. Furthermore, a local authority cannot be expected to take action following the barking of a dog, the noise from someone's wireless set or the slamming of a car door, for there should, in my view, be at least an element of nuisance to the public at large before the law is implemented.

The most serious type of noise which the Council is called upon to deal with concerns industrial noise at night-time, but even here, legal action is not possible if the best practicable means are taken to minimise the noise.

It is unfortunate that the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, does not set out tolerable standards for noise under varying conditions relating to time, place, frequency, etc., above which formal action could be taken to abate the nuisance. Nor does it specify how noise can be measured. Such standards would give considerable impetus to the need to use sound-absorbing and sound-proofing techniques and materials in the design and construction of houses, flats, offices and factories.

Section 21 of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1964, empowers the Minister to make Regulations for controlling noise and vibration in premises to which this Act applies. Good as these requirements may be in respect of offices, shops, etc., it is obviously more necessary that they should apply to factories.

In the meanwhile I must repeat that planning control can do much to reduce noise by imposing conditions at the outset.

During the year the Council agreed to the purchase of a noise meter but, in the absence of any standard, the use of this instrument is virtually limited to those occasions on which the loudness of the noise almost "speaks for itself."

PUBLIC HEALTH	INSPE	CTION O	F THE	AREA			VISITS
Atmospheric	Pollu	ition		* • • •	• • •	• • • •	746
Bakehouses			• / • •	* * * *	• • • •	• • • •	48
Caravans	• • • •	••••	* * * *	•••			755
Common Lo	odging	Houses		• • • •	ţ···	** *	-31
Dairies and	Milk	Shops		• • • •			101
Drainage			* * * *		• • •		1229
Dwellinghou	ises	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •		2718

Pub	LIC HEALTH	INSPEC	CTION O	F THE	E AREA		•	Visits
	Factories (N	1 echani	cal)	• • •	ę • •	• • • •	• • • •	227
	Factories (1	Non-Me	echanic	al)	••••		••••	37
	Fairs	•••		• • • •	• • • •		••••	2
	Food Inspec	ction	••••	• • • •			• • • •	1174
	Food Prepa	ration	Premise	es (H	ygiene)	•••	• • • •	442
	Food Shops	Inspec	ction (F	Hygier	ne)	• • • •	1	1156
	Food Vehic	les	• • • •	• • • •	* * * *	• • • •		40
	Heating (Fi	reguard	ls)	• • • •	• • • •		• • • •	6
	Hackney Ca	arriages	3	****	• • • •			41
	Ice Cream	Premise	S		• • • •		5 * * *	54
	Improvemen	nt Gran	its (Sta	ndard)		• • • •	318
	Infectious D	isease	• • •	• • • •	• • • •			831
	Licensed Pr	emises	(Hygie	ne)		• • • •		201
	Miscellaneo	us	• • • •	••••		• • • •	• • •	1019
	Meat Inspec	tion	***	* * * *	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	648
	Outworkers			• • • •		• • • •		67
	Overcrowdin	ng	••••	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	52
	Pet Animals	s, Boar	ding &	Ridi	ng Esta	blishn	nents	25
	Rat Suppre	ssion			• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	174
	Refuse Tips	and A	ccumu	lation	S	* * * *	••••	419
	Renit Act	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	* * * 1	5 • • •	• • • •	6
	Sampling—I	Food ar	nd Dru	gs	• • • •	• • • •	••••	401
]	ce Cre	am	• • • •	• • • •		• • • •	333
	1	Milk	• • • •	• • •		- 4 0	• • • •	642
	4	Swimmi	ing Bat	h Wa	iter	• • • •	• • • •	66
		Mains	Water	• • • •		• • • •	* * * *	10
	School Cant	teens	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	1	• • • •	36
	Shops Act,	1950 (F	Records	and	Hours)	• • • •	* * *	579
	Slaughterhou	ises	• • • •		* 2 * *	••••	* * * *	6
	Smoke Con	trol	• • • •		* * * *	• • • •		130
	Stables and	Pigsties	S	• • • (* * * *		• • • •	55
	Verminous 1	Premise	S	• • • •	* • • •	• • •	• • • •	85
	Waste Food	ls Orde	er	• • • •	•••	•••	••••	51
	Water Supp	lies	•••	• • • •	••••	• • • •	•••	16
	Works Cant	eens	• • • •	• • • •		• • • •	• • • •	67
	Work Places	S	••••			8 + + 2	• • •	11

HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Courses in Food Hygiene for food handlers which were commenced in 1963 at the Thurrock Technical College, have continued during the year. The syllabus is to the standard of the Certificate in Food Hygiene and Handling of Food of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. At the end of each course an examination is held.

In addition, talks on "Food Hygiene" or "The Work of the Public Health Inspector" have been given to various schools and organisations on request.

The department possesses many film strips on various aspects of public health work and it is hoped that during the year 1965, the Council will agree to the purchase of a film projector and screen which will greatly add to the manner in which talks can be presented.

An effort is to be made during the coming year to produce colour film slides of Inspectors at work in Thurrock, for it is considered that the work of local officers in their own area is likely to prove of greater interest than illustrations of work in an unknown area.

SECTION "E"

HOUSING

New	Houses.
N	lo. of new dwellings erected during the year: —
	By local authority 310
	By other local authorities Nil
	By other bodies or persons 595
Inspe	CTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES.
1. (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 816
(b) Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose 2718
2. (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1) inspected under Housing Consolidated Regulations Nil
(b) Number of inspections/re-inspections made for that purpose Nil
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be unfit for human habitation, and not capable at a reasonable expense of being rendered fit (excluding Clearance Areas) 9
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 182
	human habitation 182
REME	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local
	Authority and their officers 119

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) Housing Act, 1957—Section 9	Nil
(B) Public Health Act, 1936.	
(i) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring matters to be remedied	25
(ii) Number of dwellinghouses in which matters were remedied after service of formal notices (including those outstanding from 1963):	
(a) By owners	44
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(C) Sections 16 and 23, Housing Act, 1957.	
(i) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
(iii) Number of houses in respect of which under- takings not to use for human habitation were accepted	1
	1
(iv) Number of houses in respect of which under- takings to render fit were accepted	Nil
(D) Sections 17 and 18, Housing Act, 1957.	
(i) No. of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(ii) Number of houses closed	4
(iii) Parts of buildings closed	1

CLEARANCE AREAS.

Housing Act, 1957—Section 42.

During the year four areas involving 32 houses were submitted for confirmation, and subsequently confirmed by the Minister.

The properties in one clearance area at South Ockendon involing 4 houses, were demolished and the site cleared, the occupants having been rehoused.

This year is the fourth of the five-year programme which was scheduled to end on 31st December, 1965, and the Council informed the Minister that they proposed to deal with 120 unfit houses during this period.

However, during these four years the Council have dealt with 139 houses so that the original target has been greatly exceeded.

A special Committee was set up with the object of co-ordinating housing construction, lettings, slum clearance and redevelopment in relation to the estimated needs over the next five years. This Committee have decided that during the years 1965-9, 150 houses will be allocated to slum clearance.

The properties in the Broadway Redevelopment Scheme at Tilbury have been acquired by the Council and many have been demolished in order to provide room for rebuilding.

Properties in Grays South are gradually being purchased by the Council as a preliminary step towards the redevelopment of that area.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The work during the year under this heading is summarised as follows:—

No. of applications received: —

The second secon				
(a) For Discretionary Grants	• • • •			19
(b) For Standard Grants	• • • •	• • • •	* * 3 *	92
No. of applications granted:—				
(a) For Discretionary Grants		* * * *		19
(b) For Standard Grants				67

Throughout the country there are thousands of substantial dwellings with many years of life which lack one or more of the following essential amenities—a bath or shower, wash-hand basin, hot water supply, indoor water closet and a satisfactory foodstore.

The Government's policy of persuasion and granting 50% of the cost of providing these facilities has been of benefit to owneroccupiers, but even this generous grant has almost completely failed to persuade owners of tenanted property to modernise their houses.

The 1961 Census revealed that 3,994 houses in Thurrock were without a bathroom and after deducting those to be dealt with by way of slum clearance or redevelopment over the next 15 years, this number is reduced to 2,200. Since 1961, 388 applications have been received for improvement grants—less than 10%—the vast majority of which are in respect of owner-occupiers.

Housing Act, 1964.

This Act came into operation in August, 1964, and recognises that to achieve the basic essentials in modernisation the local authority should be given compulsory powers.

Unfortunately these powers cannot be used in the case of owner-occupied properties, and even in tenanted houses the tenant can object, in which case effective action is delayed for five years unless the house changes hands or the tenant changes heart.

The procedure to be followed by local authorities in securing compulsory improvement, even in the most straight forward cases, appears to be cumbersome, time consuming and complicated.

In addition to the five standard amenities, a reduced standard is introduced which would render a house acceptable as having been improved, even though it still lacked a bath and wash-hand basin, and the local authority are required to give financial help towards the cost. One would have thought that, in this day and age, a higher standard than this could have been envisaged.

The Act also permits tenants to initiate the procedure in individual houses outside improvement areas and here the procedure is more straight forward. There is no reference to the reduced standard and this may well prove to be a most useful and practical section.

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act has been in operation some $7\frac{1}{2}$ years and permits, with few exceptions, rents to be increased automatically, subject to the tenant's right to object by the service of a notice on the land-lord listing those defects of repair which he considers should be remedied. It will be seen that no use has been made of this Act during the year under review, and it now seems to serve very little purpose.

Details of its administration are as follows: —

			1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
No.	of applications	received	68	56	15	_			2	,
No.	of applications	rejected			1				1	
No.	of Undertakings	accepted	40	48	5	2			1	
No.	of Certificates of	of Disre-								
	pair issued .	***	10	26	7			_		
No.	of Applications									
	cellation of Certi	ificate	8	3	1		2	2	1	
No.	of Cancellations	issued,	6	3	1		2	2	1	-
No.	of Refusals to	Cancel								
	Certificates .	•••	2							

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

16 premises were found to be infested with vermin as follows:—

Bugs 13 premises (involving 29 rooms)

Fleas 3 premises (involving 4 rooms)

OVERCROWDING.

During the year 52 visits were made in connection with complaints of overcrowding. Where overcrowding was established, the matter was referred to the Housing Department and if the family concerned were applicants for a Council house an allowance was made in the "Points" Scheme.

The Council have now decided to give a greater degree of priority to those cases in which overcrowding arises from natural increase in the family and this should be of assistance in dealing with the problem.

Houses in Multiple Occupation.

It is difficult to assess the problem of houses in multiple occupation in Thurrock. Undoubtedly there are many houses occupied by two families, but this does not raise any serious issue when one family occupies the ground floor and the other family the first floor. The problems associated with the letting of multi-storey houses is insignificant in Thurrock since the number of three-storey dwellings (other than modern flats) is less than fifty.

The principal difficulty lies in the occupation of houses by immigrants—principally Indians—who have a habit of purchasing houses and letting off rooms to individuals or families. Serious overcrowding can occur but it is extremely difficult to prove the number of persons occupying the premises.

The new Act enables a local authority to assume control of multiple occupied houses for a limited period in extreme cases and furthermore incorporates a penalty clause in respect of noncompliance with notices requiring additional amenities as an alternative to carrying out work in default.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The "battle" with gipsy caravans continues with unabated vigour and the immense time devoted to this problem is shown by the fact that during 1964 some 755 visits were made. Scarcely a

week passes without one or more caravans appearing on highway verges or disused land.

The Council have given the Clerk authority to institute legal proceedings against any gipsy who encamps on a highway verge but the efforts of the department and the police have, so far, rendered this step unnecessary.

So far as disused land is concerned, the policy of persuading owners to barricade the sites has continued although, on occasions, gipsies have broken down the barricades and entered on the land.

In one instance the Council took Enforcement Action against the owner of land which was becoming a regular camping ground for as many as twenty caravans at one time. Unfortunately the Minister of Housing and Local Government refused to confirm the Notice upon the grounds that the owner of the land had taken all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised entry.

There would appear to be no legal answer to the gipsy problem and having regard to the fact that these people must go somewhere, the matter will not be resolved until planning authorities set aside land, suitably equipped, for the reception of gipsies.

The uncontrolled site adjoining the West Thurrock Power Station is as unsatisfactory as was prophesied in 1963. A survey during the latter part of 1964 showed over 100 caravans on the site. Many of the occupants were employed neither at West Thurrock Power Station nor at Tilbury "B" Power Station. It is obvious that, with the progress being made at Tilbury "B" more caravans will arrive and the future is causing the department considerable concern.

The Council have been recommended to provide a caravan site at Tilbury with a view to accommodating contract workers at Tilbury "B" Power Station as well as unauthorised caravans at West Thurrock and in the meanwhile the site at West Thurrock is to be run down.

The position in Thurrock regarding properly licensed sites is as follows:—

- (1) No. of cases during the year in which a site licence was granted 5
- (2) Total number of licensed sites 6

Of the six licensed sites, five are in respect of one caravan only. The remaining one comprises the caravan site at Corringham which has been mentioned in previous reports.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

During the year 1,270 complaints were received from residents within the Urban District. Every effort is made to deal with such complaints on the day of receipt.

DETAILS OF WORK EXECUTED.

Damp remedied	••••	• • • •	• • • •	89
Rooms stripped, cleansed, redecora	ited	• • • •	• • • •	2
Plaster repaired	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	29
Floors repaired	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	13
Windows repaired, renewed, or ext	ended	• • • •	• • • •	70
Stoves repaired (i.e., fireplaces)	• • • •	• • • •	* * * *	13
Repairs to locks and doors, etc.	1 • • •	7 • • •		17
Sashes repaired	• • •		* * * *	12
Staircases stripped or redecorated	•••	ş · · ·		1
Staircases repaired		• • • •	•••	1
Conversion of pail closets to W.C's	5.	••••	•••	3
W.C's. repaired		• • • •	• • • •	30
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	• • • •	• • • •	••••	4
Soil or vent pipes repaired or renev	wed	••••	• • • •	1
Drains unstopped or repaired			• • • •	37
New drains provided	••••	• • • •	***	3
Gullies repaired or renewed			• • • •	7
Inspection chambers repaired or pro-	ovided	• • • •	+ 0 + 0	9
Provision of new water services	• • • •		• • • •	3
Water services repaired or renewed	d	• • • •	• • • •	5
Roofs repaired or renewed	• • • •	•••	* • • •	65
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired	d or re	newed	* • • •	45
Walls repaired or renewed	• • • •	••••	• • • •	28
Yards repaired or paved	• • • •	• • • •	• • • •	1
Dustbins provided	2 * * *	••••	,	2
Miscellaneous housing defects			; • • •	34
Accumulations removed			• • • •	13

SECTION "F"

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Num Inspec- tions (3)		Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	37		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	335	227	26	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	Ar kalenneniğ	****		dinnulini
	347	264	26	A STATE OF S

2 — Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

PARTICULARS	Num		ere Refe	erred ca	Number of ses in which rosecutions
(1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)		By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	2			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	***********		Vaccount		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):— (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective		1 20			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)		·			
Total	26	23		Mary and the Control of the Control	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS.

There is one employer of outworkers as defined in Sections 110 and 111 of the Act, in this area.

A register of outworkers resident in the district is kept, the number so registered being 112.

SECTION "G"

SHOPS AND OFFICES

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Shops Act, 1950.

Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938-64.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

WEEKLY HALF HOLIDAY ORDERS.

(1) Grays Thurrock — Wednesday.

Art Needlework Dealers, Boot Dealers, Corn Dealers, Drapers Dealers in Fancy Goods, Furnishers, Outfitters, Grocers, Ironmongers, Jewellers, Nurserymen, Oil and Colour Merchants, Ships Chandlers, Sewing Machine Dealers, Stationers, Wardrobe Dealers, Harness Makers, Butchers, Chemists and Hairdressers

Exemptions: — Photographers, Dealers in photographic goods.

- (2) South Ockendon Wednesday.

 All trades not exempted by Act, Stationers, Corn and Coal Dealers.
- (3) South Ockendon Thursday. Stationers.

Exemptions: — Corn and Coal Merchants.

(4) Stanford-le-Hope — Wednesday.

All trades except those exempted by the Act, together with Furniture Dealers, Hairdressers, Outfitters and Watchmakers.

- (5) Purfleet and Langdon Hills.
 All shops exempt from closing.
- (6) Tilbury Wednesday. Hairdressers.
- (7) Fobbing.Coal and Coke Merchants exempted.

CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Grays Thurrock — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 7 p.m., Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 9 p.m.

Art Needlework Dealers, Bakers, Boot and Shoe Merchants, Butchers, Chemists, China and Glass Merchants, Corn Merchants, Dairymen, Drapers, Furnishers, Gents' Outfitters, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants, Jewellers, Oil and Colour Merchants, Photographers, Sewing Machine Agents and Stationers.

(2) North and South Stifford, West and Little Thurrock.

Tobacconists — Weekdays 9.30 p.m., Saturday 10 p.m.

Sunday Trading Exemptions.

Parts of Grays (Old High Street from Market Place to Grays Beach).

Photographic requisites. Sale of articles for bathing or fishing, toys, souvenirs, fancy goods, books, stationery, photographs, reproductions & postcards.

SHOPS ACT. 1950.

Some 579 visits were carried out resulting in the service of 13 written notices, made up as follows:—

REQUIREMENTS	No.	OF INSTANCES
Cleanse premises		8
Provision of artificial lighting in W.C	• • • • • •	3
Provision of ventilation to W.C.	• • • •	1
Provision of sanitary accommodation		1
Miscellaneous	••••	10

Six notices were complied with during the year.

SHOPS, ETC., INSPECTION.

Complaints and enquiries have been very few during the year. Such matters usually relate to Hours of Closing and Sunday Trading. A pamphlet has been prepared which is available to any shopkeeper who is in need of advice on these matters.

A stock of the requisite forms are kept in the department and these are available to shopkeepers on request.

There is a tendency for some of the multiple firms to institute a five-day week for their employees and the existing Weekly Half-Holiday Orders sometimes leads to difficulties. Where no Order exists, the shopkeeper is free to close on any day of his choosing (so long as it is not changed more frequently than once in three months) and advantage is taken of this to close all day on Mondays. Where, however, an Order exists which prescribes Wednesday as the Closing Day, the shopkeeper must close either on that day or on a Saturday.

It seems to me therefore, that, if a true five-day week is to come about, i.e., involving a long weekend, a complete revision of the existing Orders would need to be undertaken so as to enable shopkeepers to close on a Monday instead of a Wednesday or Thursday.

At the end of the year the long awaited Crathorne Report on the "Law on Sunday Observance" was published and a few words on the law of Sunday Trading would not be out of place. This is governed by Section 47 and the 5th Schedule of the Shops Act, 1950, which severely limits the sale of food or drink for off-consumption. At the same time the Schedule permits the sale of meals or refreshment whether or not for consumption at the shop at which they are sold. The Courts have interpreted "refreshment" so widely that an extensive range of foodstuffs (including many ordinary groceries) are commonly sold on Sunday, e.g., bread, frozen foods, even raw kippers.

Until the law on this subject is clarified there seems little hope of enforcing the provisions of this Act so far as Sunday Trading in foodstuffs is concerned.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

This Act came on to the Statute Book on 31st July, 1963. Its object is to ensure that the working conditions in shops and offices are not less favourable than those in factories—in other words it is designed to cater for the "white collar" worker. The Act follows the lines of the Factories Act and lays down requirements regarding registration of premises, health, welfare and safety conditions.

The Minister of Labour is empowered to make regulations regarding registration of premises, provision of first aid equipment, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness and facilities for the drying of clothing.

To date the following Orders have been made and come into operation on the dates mentioned:—

May 1st, 1964—Registration of all premises before 31st July, 1964.

August 1st, 1964—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises First Aid Order, 1964.

January 1st, 1966—Sanitary Conveniences Regulations, 1964. January 1st, 1966—Washing Facilities Regulations, 1964.

The provisions regarding overcrowding come into operation on August 1st, 1967.

Registrations and General Inspections:—

	Premise	s		I	Registrations	Inspection	ons
Offices	••••	• • • •	••••	• • • •	122	5	
Retail Shops	• • • •	••••	••••	• • • •	418	203	
Wholesale Sh	ops and	War	ehouses	••••	10		
Catering Esta	blishmer	nts ar	nd Cante	eens	66	4	
Fuel Storage	Depots	••••	• • •	••••			

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises.

Class of Premises		No. of	Persons	Employed
Offices	: • • •	****	2954	
Retail Shops	••••	• • • •	2345	
Wholesale Dept. Wareho	uses	• ••	128	
Catering Establishments		•••	482	
Canteens	••••	••••	219	
Fuel Storage Depots	••••	••••		
		Tota	1 6128	
		Males	3063	
		Females	3065	

Exemptions.

No applications for exemption have been received regarding space, temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities.

Accidents.

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

- (a) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises
- (b) disables any such person for more than three days.

Up to the end of the year five accidents were notified, one of which involved an injury from a meat slicing machine which was not completely guarded. The question of more adequate guarding was taken up with the manufacturers who stated that, at that time, no guards of the type stipulated were available for that type of machine. The matter was thereupon referred to the Ministry of Labour and I understand that measures for guarding machines of this type are under review.

Notices Served.

Details of requirements made under this Act during the year are as follows:—

Requirement								
Provide first aid box	75							
Provide accommodation for outdoor clothing	10							
Provide Thermometer	68							
Provide wash-hand basin	24							
Provide hot water	32							
Provide soap and towel	31							
Mark sanitary accommodation for sexes	11							
Provide adequate means of heating	23							
Provide facilities for meals	2							
Provide seating facilities for staff	9							
Provide for disposal of dressings	2							
Guarding of stairs	4							
Register Premises	17							
Provide water supply to W.C	1							
Provide artificial lighting to W.C. compartment	11							
Renew wash-hand basin	. 1							
Provide adequate sanitary accommodation	5							
Provide intervening ventilated space to W.C	2							
Cleanse and/or redecorate W.C	. 12							
Repair defective wooden steps	1							
Guard machinery	. 2							
Repair door to W.C	. 1							

SECTION "H"

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS.

There are within the area 14 registered dairies, and licences for the sale of designated milk have also been issued in respect of 126 shop premises and three milk vending machines.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960-63.

Number of licences in force: —

(a)	Dealer's	(Prepacked)	for	Tuberculin	Tested	Milk	51
(b)	99	,,	99	Pasteurised	Milk	••••	90
(c)	99	99	,,	Sterilised N	1 ilk	• • • •	41
(d)	Dealer's	(Pasteuriser'	s)	• • • •	• • 7 •	• • • •	1
(e)	Dealer's	(Tuberculin	Tes	sted)	• • • •	• • • •	2

Pasteurising Plants.

There is only one pasteurising plant in the area—a H.T.S.T. type with a capacity of 1,500 G.P.H.

Samples are regularly taken from this plant and all phosphatase tests have proved satisfactory.

MILK SAMPLES.

(a) Bacteriological.

The following tables show the number of samples taken and the results obtained:—

GRADE	No.	Phosphatase Test			fethylen Blue Tes	Turbidity Test		
	Taken	Passed	Failed	Passed	Void	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	124	124		110	9	5	_	_
Tuberculin Tested (Past.)	359	3 5 7	2	326	20	13		_
Tuberculin Tested	51			47	3	I	-	
Sterilised	31				-		31	

It is to be noted that, of the 565 samples of designated milk taken, 17 failed the methylene blue test and 2 failed both methylene blue and phosphatase tests.

Milk Samples which failed the appropriate tests during 1964.

		Designatio	n	Samples from			
Failure	Past.	T. T. (Past.)	T.T. Plants within the area the	Plants outside the area			
Methylene Blue Test	5	II	I	3	14		
Methylene Blue Test & Phosphatase Test	_	2	_	_	2		

Of the 19 unsatisfactory samples, 8 were from vending machines and the remaining 11 from sealed vessels.

There are three vending machines in the area and in one case the milk is cartoned at a local dairy. An undue proportion of milk from these machines fails the methylene blue test and whilst I have no doubt that the provision of these machines meets a public need, they have one or two disadvantages. The refrigerating mechanism is likely to breakdown or is geared in such a manner that milk during the warmer months is retained at too high a temperature. Alternatively if the machine is not refilled daily, the milk tends to become stale and, although fit to drink, is liable to fail the prescribed test.

So far as the samples from sealed vessels are concerned, nine failures occurred from cartons supplied by a firm outside this area. Both the retailer and the processing dairy firm blamed each other and in these days, when the small dairyman has disappeared and the trade is in the hands of large companies with premises outside this area, it is extremely difficult to know who is right.

One methylene blue failure refers to milk from a local producer-retailer and was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food—the licensing authority.

The two phosphatase failures occurred on the same day and involved dairy premises outside this area. Although the most stringent enquiries were made by the licensing authority no reason was forthcoming.

It may be noted that from January 1st onwards, the term "Tuberculin Tested" may not be used and milk is to be designated as "Untreated," "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised."

(b) Biological.

There are 22 milk-producing farms in the area and every effort is made to sample the milk from each farm twice yearly. During the year 43 samples were taken for submission to the biological test with a view to determining the presence or otherwise of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus. In no case was a positive result obtained.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the area and they are in regular use. The Construction Regulations apply to both these premises.

KNACKERS YARDS.

There are no licensed Knackers' Yards in the area.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	
Number killed Number inspected	2854	119	20	7930	2507	
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci		1		5.1		
Whole carcases condemned		1		54		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		45		887	219	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber-						
culosis and cysticerci	12.86	38.65		11.86	8.73	
Tuberculosis Only Whole carcases condemned						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2				55	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.07				2.19	
Cysticercosis		and the state of t		Sand washington and the sand		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29		_			
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration	29					
Generalised and totally con- demned	-	· ·				
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Cysticercosis	1.01	- Landson - Land				

It will be noted that the total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 13,430, an increase of 26.7% over 1963 due largely to a increase in the number of sheep killed.

It is pleasing to record that every animal slaughtered has been inspected, although this involves a seven-day week.

Tuberculosis now plays a minor role in meat inspection and in the case of the two beef carcases found to be so infected, the circumstances were reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The incidence of Cysticercus Bovis shows the highest figure since 1960.

With the coming into operation of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, all carcases are now stamped by the Inspector and the Council have continued the principle of making no charge for this service.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

The weight of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses during the year amounts to 12,159 lbs. 12 ozs.

SLAUGHTERMEN.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

A register of all licensed slaughtermen is kept in accordance with the above Act and the number so licensed is 12.

Unsound Food Surrendered.

Con	nmodit	У	Blown	Dam'd.	Decom.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
592	Tins	Meat	,,	,,	99	18	3	27	7
1872	9.9	Fruit	99	99	99	19	2	7	$2\frac{3}{4}$
940	9.5	Vegetables	9 9	,,	,,,	6	1	18	$1\frac{3}{4}$
7	9.9	Vegetables	,,,	,,	99	F	. 07	zs. 2	,450
472	2.5	Tomatoes	,,	••	••	3	3	11	$2\frac{1}{2}$
201	9.9	Fish	99	99	99		2	27	$4\frac{1}{4}$
129	9.9	Soup	99				3	14	$1\frac{1}{2}$
28	99	Baby Food	99	99	99			11	5
104	• •	Pudding	99	59			2	27	$15\frac{1}{2}$
41	,,	Cream	99	99				12	14
224	,,	Milk	99	,,,		1	1	6	$12\frac{1}{2}$
122	99	Milk	,,	,,	$209\frac{1}{4}$	pints	eq	uiva	lent
21.	,,	Preserves	9 9	,,			1	1	12
26	*9	Fruit Juice	,,,	99				24	10
1	Tin	Fruit Juice	,,	99			F	. oz	s. 6

Cor	nmodi	ty	Blown	Dam'd.	Decom.	cwts	. qrs	. lbs.	ozs.
6	Tins	Soft Drinks		,,,				4	7
3	,,	Soft Drinks		25			Fl.	ozs.	$34\frac{1}{2}$
2	99	Macaroni Chees	e ,,	99				1	15
1	Tin	Chicken	99	99	• •			3	4
12	Jars	Pickles		99	99			10	2
42	,,,	Beetroot		99		_		18	6
72	99	Minced Chicken		99	9.9			6	12
36		Meat Paste		99	99		_	2	4
4	99	Fish Paste			99				8
34		Assorted Paste			,,		_	4	4
2	,,	Preserves		19	99			2	$14\frac{1}{2}$
1	99	Mea't Extract		99				-	1
1	Bott.			99				_	9
1	Pkt.	Breakfast Cereal		99				-	
2	Dr'ms	Salt		99				1	8
		Soft Drinks		99			Fl.	ozs.	
	_	Wrapped Candy			louldy			4	8
		Cheese Spread			dration		_	10	5
		Cheese	Discol	•	n and o				
							2	10	
1	Pkt.	Ground Cloves		Da	maged				1
1	Pkt.	Dates			,,				6
		Tripe			Sour	_		10	
643	Pkts.	Frozen Foods	Refrig	g. break					
		Frozen Meals	Refrig	g. breal	kdown	20	3	14	
44	Prs.	Frankfurters							
6	Small	Frankfurters		TP	1 1			0.7	
1	x 10	Salami	•	1 ransit	delay	_		27	
1	Large	Salami)							
26		Chickens	Refri	g. breal	kdown		1	4	
		Wet Fish		Decom	posed			2	
		Sausages		. 9:	•		1	1	8
		Ham		,			1	6	
		Cooked Pork		5:	,			15	12
		Imp'd. Lambs Liv	ver, De	com. &	Tyrosi	n 1	_	8	_
		Pork			posed				8
		Ox Kidneys		91					_
		-							
To	OTAL '	WEIGHT OF FOOD	CONDE	EMNED :	3 tons	18	0	9	$7\frac{1}{4}$

All condemned food is collected by the department and disposed of on the Council's Refuse Tip.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES.

303 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

Ministry of Health's Pr	ovisiona	l Grade	Nc	o. of Samples
Grade I	• • • •	•••	• • • •	250
Grade II	••••		* * * >	38
Grade III	****			9
Grade IV	:···	• • • •	• • • •	6

7 ice lolly samples were taken and all were satisfactory.

The standard of ice-cream sold within the area throughout the year is set out below:—

sol out	DCIOW.				
Producer	Total Samples	I	II	III	IV
A	122	116	5		1
В	111	97	12	2	_
C	17	14	3		
D	16	8	5	2	1
*E	17	5	9	3	—
\mathbf{F}	7	2	1	1	3
G	1	1			
Н	2	1	_	_	1
I	4	2	2	—	
J	2	1	1		
K	1	1			
L	2	2			
M	1	_		1	
	-			—	
	303	250	38	9	6

*Producer "E" is situated within the Urban District. The remaining producers manufacture outside the area but retail the supplies within. The 17 samples from the Thurrock producer came within the following categories:—

Percentage of	Grade I samples	• • • •	29.41%
,, ,,	Grade I and II samples	• • • •	82.35%
,, ,,	Grade III samples	• • • •	17.65%
	Grade IV samples	• • • •	0.0%

This is not within the recommended standard, i.e., 50% of samples should fall into Grade I, 80% should fall into Grades I

and 2, not more than 20% should fall into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4, although this represents an improvement on 1963.

The overall picture regarding the quality of ice cream sold in the district however shows some improvement, the percentage of Grade 4 samples being 1.98 and when this is judged against the background of the total number of samples taken, i.e., 303, I do not consider it to be unsatisfactory.

Of the unsatisfactory samples, all, with one exception, consisted of loose ice cream from vehicles. This aspect of the trade is extremly difficult to control since these vehicles come from outside this area. The single exception related to a sample of soft ice cream prepared in one of the local shops at a time when new apparatus had recently been delivered and the shopkeeper was not fully familiar with its operation.

During the year an application was received requesting registration for the storage of ice cream. The premises involved were considered to be unsuitable for the purpose and after some protracted negotiations, the application was refused.

FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the area is as under:— Butchers **7**2 Grocers and Provision Merchants 157 Fruiterers and Greengrocers 64 Fishmongers (including fish fryers) 33 Sugar Confectionery 83 Flour Confectionery 28 Bakehouses 11 Cafes and Restaurants 70 Works Canteens 60 School Canteens 57 Licensed Premises 79 Clubs 51 General Stores 30 Dairies 1

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

The special attention devoted to enforcing the above Regulations was continued during 1964 and a total of 2,145 visits and revisits were made to food shops, cafes, school and factory canteens.

Details of requirements made under the Regulations are as follows:—

.0110	REQUIREMENTS		N	UMBER
	Provide sanitary accommodation	• • •	• • • •	1
	Provide waste bins	* * * *		3
	Repair and/or redecorate walls and ceili	ngs	• • • •	99
	Remove accumulations of refuse	****		8
	Provide constant hot water	• • • •		10
	Provide soap, towel and nailbrush	• • • •		11
	Provide washing facilities	• • • •	• • • •	8
	Provide water supply	* * * *		3
	Cleanse equipment		• • • •	1
	Cleanse and/or repair floors		* * * *	26
	Provide accommodation for outdoor cle	othing	* * * *	7
	Protect food from risk of contamination	_	• • • •	11
	Repair equipment		• • • •	10
	Provide or renew sinks	*		8
	Provide first aid equipment			26
	Provide "Wash Your Hands" notices	• • • •	* • • •	11
	Provide adequate lighting and ventilati	on		6
	Display name and address on food stall		* * 1 •	1
	Refrain from smoking ,		• • • •	5
	Provide lighting and ventilation to			
	sanitary accor	nmoda	ation	8
	Provide impervious table tops	* * * *	• • • •	2
	Protect food containers from risk of con	tamina	ation	2
	Miscellaneous	• • • •	• • • •	5
			Total	272
Oth	er Regulations affecting Food Premises:			tea-sim to the second
Oth	Provide duethin			6
	Repair or cleanse yard surface	* • • •	••••	5
	Panois sink weste nine	* * * *	• • • •	1
	Provide drainage	****	****	1
	Cleanse drains		***	5
	Repair drains			4
	Repair or cleanse sanitary accommodate	ion		11
				1 00
			Tota	1 33

I have commented before that far too much handling of food still takes place.

In retail shops the handling without servers of loose cooked meats and other foods, which can readily carry food poisoning organisms, is still common practice. Instances are still seen of shop assistants handling those foods which one is expected to eat without cooking or further treatment of any kind. This can undoubtedly be one of the causes of food poisoning.

Cooked meat can be unpacked, sliced in a machine or with a knife and fork, weighed, wrapped and sold, and the remainder placed in a refrigerator quite easily without directly touching the food by hand. Sausage rolls, meat pics, cream cakes, etc., can be moved and served with tongs. It is unnecessary and dangerous to handle these foods and the Regulations should be amended to make this an offence. Such a requirement would be generally welcomed by the public.

It is also desirable that cooked meats and similar food should be kept cool or refrigerated at all times to keep them in good condition and safe to eat and yet this requirement is not enforceable under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. The only cooling required at present is extremely limited. The Regulations should be amended to require that all such foods, unless sterilised and in sealed containers, must be stored, transported and displayed under suitably refrigerated conditions whether in rooms, vehicles or display counters.

Instances have been noted in which retailers keep meat pies and similar products in warming cabinets prior to sale. There is an obvious danger in this practice if the food is retained within the temperature range which promotes the more rapid growth of food poisoning organisms.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—Section 16.

The records show that there were 439 premises registered for the manufacture or preservation of food, or sale of ice cream at the year's end.

These figures include 59 premises registered under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, for the preparation of potted shrimps.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Some twenty-three complaints were received during the year involving foreign bodies in food, mouldy meat pies, etc., and two instances call for special comment.

One related to globules of mercury found in a top piece of Argentine Beef. Portions of glass were found which led one to believe that, after slaughter, a glass thermometer had been inserted in the flesh for the purpose of determining whether the meat had been sufficiently cooled and that this thermometer had become broken. The matter was referred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and although enquiries were made in the Argentine and on the ship which imported the beef, the mystery was never solved.

Another related to an internal abscess in a leg of pork. Since this abscess could not have been seen by the butcher concerned nor, for that matter by the Inspector at the place of slaughter, no further action was taken.

Two prosecutions were instituted—one in connection with the sale of bread containing a fly and the other in connection with the sale of bread containing a button. In both cases a fine of £5 was imposed.

In the remaining cases, informal action was taken without recourse to legal proceedings. This involved a warning letter from the Clerk to the Council.

In addition, four complaints were received regarding milk bottles, which had been improperly cleansed—one such bottle contained a large horse chestnut—and warning letters were sent to the dairymen concerned.

One is continually surprised that the dairy industry have not made more headway in the provision of cartons in place of bottles for containing milk.

The advantages of this type of container are evident. The problem of dirty milk bottles does not exist; expensive bottling plant and staff for checking purposes are not required; accidents from broken glass and the cost of broken bottles need not be considered; distribution is easier and the milkman does not have to collect empties.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963.

No egg pasteurisation plants exist in the area.

Report of the Public Analyst

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST

During the year 1964, 328 samples of food and drugs were examined. Of these 72 were taken formally and 256 informally.

The number adulterated or about which some comment was made was 20. The incident of these criticisms may be classified as follows:—

		$N\iota$	ımber of sample examined	es Number of samples adulterated, etc.
Milk	*****	•••••	47	
Other	foods	•••••	233	17
Drugs	•••••	*****	48	3

The number of articles of food submitted during the year as the result of complaints by members of the public was larger than usual and most of these were found to be justified, though this was not always the case.

A product sold as Best of the Milk contained only 18 per cent of milk fat and your analyst in agreement with most public analysts maintains that this is really canned cream and should, therefore, contain not less than 23 per cent of milk fat as required by the Food Standards Cream Order, 1951. The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, describes cream as "that part of milk rich in fat which has been separated by skimming or otherwise", but it is understood that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have sent a letter to the vendors of a similar product stating that as it is not described as cream it is their view that it may legally be sold at a fat standard lower than is required for canned cream. Your analyst's opinion is based not merely on his interpretation of the Food and Drugs Act, but also on the object for which a food is sold. He sent two of his staff to separate shops to purchase tins of cream and they were supplied with "Top of the Milk". In one case the assistant refused to take the product as it was not labelled cream and the floor manager, on being called, informed her that this was the only type of cream they were then selling. Another public analyst similarly sent one of his staff to a third shop and this assistant was again treated in the same way. Your analyst is very perturbed about this matter since several Local Authorities were preparing to take legal action, but were discouraged from doing so by the Ministry's letter, although officially the Ministry discontinued its food advisory service many years ago. Several similar products are now appearing on the market in order to meet the competition thus encouraged.

Two pieces of bread out of several submitted as a complaint each contained a piece of a very small insect, and although the two portions were probably from the same insect, one was unidentifiable, whilst the other was clearly part of the remains of a juvenile spider. Another piece of bread contained numerous minute pieces of black, derived from burnt starchy material, probably burnt flour from a baking tin or some other source; some slices of bread were stained with a very small quantity of oily matter with grit, but owing to its general distribution in the bread it was difficult to say whether this was due to gear oil with metal, or to oily matter with general dirt; but in two other cases the black material consisted essentially of gear oil and metal from shafting. A complaint about yet another loaf of bread resulted from the accidental presence of a sultana in the crumb.

A product described as "chopped pork" contained only 82.5 per cent of total meat, and should have been sold as luncheon meat and not as chopped pork.

Some sliced pork brawn contained only 83 per cent of meat, whereas the total meat should be 94 to 95 per cent.

A complaint was received because some corned beef was discoloured. The beef had dried out, and it was not certain how long the can had been opened. The trouble was probably due to faulty scoring lines, along which the opener operated, being cut too deeply with the result that the can had leaked slightly, allowing air to enter.

A stain on the meat of a tin of pork brawn was due to iron caused by imperfect tinning of the tin plate of the can. Although the stain was unsightly, even in its immediate area the iron was only 23 parts per million and this is not excessive.

The chocolate coating on a sponge cake appeared to have been made with rancid palm oil. In consequence the cake had a most unpleasant flavour and was unfit for consumption.

A "Concentrated Cheese Sauce" contained 80 per cent skimmed milk, 9 per cent flour and 8.4 per cent of cheese, and should, therefore, not have been described as a "Concentrated Cheese Sauce". The disclosure of the ingredients failed to comply with the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order and instead of "Swiss cheese, milk, flour and spices" it should have read "Skimmed milk, flour, cheese, emulsifying salts and spices".

The description "Blackcurrant Pie Filling" was considered to be incorrect as the preparation was thickened with starch and, in your analyst's opinion, it should therefore have been labelled "Prepared Blackcurrant Pie Filling".

Some Cherryade, received as a complaint, was fermenting and contained over 100 live bacteria and 300 yeasts per millilitre.

Some ready to eat potato chips contained 165 parts per million of sulphur dioxide, whereas cooked potato chips are not permitted to contain preservative other than a residue from treated raw chips.

Some liqueur chocolates were labelled "Scotch Whisky Chocolate Liqueurs". They contained only 4.65 per cent proof spirit on the whole chocolate, whereas they must contain not less than 6 per cent and preferably 9 per cent proof spirit. They should have been labelled as "Whisky Flavoured Liqueur Chocolates", and they were certainly not liqueurs, which are syrupy liquids.

A prepared mustard was stated to contain "solution of acetic acid" but there is no recognised solution of acetic acid for foods, and this should have been declared as "acetic acid".

The ingredients of a Chop Sauce were incorrectly described and in the wrong order.

Some nerve tablets were incorrectly labelled. The active ingredients disclosed on the carton were different from those listed on the tube, and in any event both disclosures appeared to be incorrect.

The ingredients of a Cough Treatment were declared partially in imperial and partially in metric measure, so that the impression was gained that those ingredients in smallest amount were actually present as the largest.

Exception was taken to the label and alcohol content of a proprietary cold cure, but it was found later that, owing to the incorrect disclosure of the ingredients the quantity of alcohol expected to be present had been calculated incorrectly.

LEGISLATION ISSUED OR PROPOSED DURING 1964

The year 1963 was a comparatively quiet one as regards food legislation, but the year 1964 was busy, not because of the number of Statutory Instruments issued, but on account of fresh legislation, which is being initiated.

DRUG CONTROL

Probably the most important proposed piece of legislation is the suggestion that the control of foods should be separated from that of drugs and that the whole of drug legislation should be brought under one main umbrella. The present proposals would, however, retain many of the present anomalies of control, and doubtless more consideration will be given to this in the near future.

FOOD ADDITIVES AND CONTAMINANTS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food decided to make the above Committee a committee in its own right on account of the importance that this aspect of food has assumed. He asked the Committee, among other things, to examine the leeching out of poisonous substances into foods from any wrapping materials that might be employed. Urgent attention, however, is needed about the presence of lead and other toxic substances in children's toys and paints, which children are likely to suck or chew. It is believed that lead and mercury are causing more ill-health among children than was formerly recognised. The Committee have also been asked to examine the whole subject of food preservatives.

COLOURING MATTER IN FOOD REGULATIONS

The Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1957 were considered and the Food Standards Committee issued a report making recommendations for amendments to these regulations. The Ministry is now adopting the policy of keeping Statutory Instruments constantly under review and amending them, if necessary, fairly frequently. It is now suggested that six of the existing food colours should be withdrawn from the list, that titanium dioxide should be permitted only for the surface colouring of food, that the colouring of citrus fruit should be forbidden, and that specifications of purity should be introduced. On the other hand, it is suggested that another black colour should be provisionally added to the permitted list and that two named carotenoids should be permitted. It is noted that no organic blue colour will now be permitted in food if the recommendations are adopted and it is a remarkable thing that no natural food appears to be coloured blue.

FOOD LABELLING

During the year The Food Standards Committee issued a Report on Food Labelling and, although the recommendations included some 72 provisions, there is little doubt that many of the proposals will have to be modified.

MEAT TREATMENT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

The Meat (Treatment) Regulations, 1964, prohibit the addition of ascorbic acid, erythorbic acid, nicotinic acid, nicotinamide,

and any of their salts or derivatives to raw and unprocessed meat intended for human consumption. Unfortunately, the definition of the word 'processed' does not clarify exactly whether products such as sausages and salamis would be considered as processed or not.

Proposals were issued for canned meat products and also for meat pies. Doubtless many of these proposals are being contested behind the scenes, but it will be a great advantage if the drafts can come into force without too much amendment.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

The Dried Milk Regulations, 1964, come into operation on the 11th March, 1965. The chief modifications introduced are the maximum and minimum percentages of milk fat required for grades of milk powder other than full cream powder, and regulations for the labelling of such products. There is also a proposal to amend the present Skimmed Milk with Non-Fat Regulations, 1960.

During the year the Ministry issued a provisional method for the testing of milk for the presence of antibiotics. It is very seldom, however, that the presence of antibiotics can be proved in bulk milk.

Paraffin Hydrocarbons in Food

Fresh Mineral Hydrocarbons in Food Regulations were issued during the year. Besides increasing the amount of paraffin hydrocarbons permitted in or on foods, they also lay down specifications for the quality of such hydrocarbons. The difficulty of enforcing in Great Britain regulations regarding the quality of liquid paraffin employed for coating citrus or dried prunes, currants, sultanas or raisins in other countries will be appreciated.

SOFT DRINKS

The Soft Drinks Regulations, 1963, which should have come into force in 1964, were revoked and replaced by the Soft Drinks Regulations, 1964, which will come into operation on the 2nd June, 1965. These Regulations will permit the use of cyclamates for sweetening soft drinks and presumably, therefore, Regulations will be introduced to permit the use of these compounds in other foods such as diabetic jams. These Regulations also require the disclosure of the presence of artificial sweeteners in soft drinks and prescribe standards for semi-sweet and low calorie soft drinks.

Article		r samples e Informal		Numbe Formal	r adultera Informal	ted etc. Total
Baked Beans						
with Hamburgers		1	1			
Baking Powder		1	1			
Batter and Scone Flour		1	1		_	- and - construction
Biscuits		1	1			
Bread		6	6	<u> </u>	6	6
Butter		4	4			
Cake		2	2		1	1
Cheese with beer		1	1			4
Coconut Cookies		1	1			
Coffee		4	4			
Coffee and Chicory Essence		1	1			
Confectionery		8	8		1	1
Cornflour		3	3			
Cream		1	1			
Curry Powder		1	1			
Dessert Powder		1	1			
Fat		1	1			
		4	4			
Fish Cakes		3	3			
Fish Paste		3 1	3 1			
Flavouring, Vanilla		1	1	5-17-7-A		
Flour		3	3 1		t	
Food Colouring, Orange		1 1 1	4.4	****		
Fruit, fresh		44	44		6	-
Gelatine		1	1		ter	
Ice Cream	_	2	2			
Ice Cream Powder		1	1	•••••		
Ice Lolly Mix		1	ļ 1	-	•	
Jam		1	1			-
Jelly		3	3		•	
Lemon Cheese		1	1			
Margarine		4	4			
Marmalade		l	1			
Marmalade, diabetic		1	1	•		
Mayonnaise		3	3			
MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCT	S					
Bacon	•	2	2			
Brawn		5	5		1	1
Beefburgers		1	1			
Corned Beef		1	Î		1	1
Cornish Pasty		1	Î			
Common rasty		I.	J.			
Carried forward		123	123	_	10	10

Article		r samples e Informal			er adulterat Informal	ed etc. Total
Brought forward		123	123		10	10
MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS	con	td.				
Chicken Croquettes		1	1			
Chopped Pork		1	1		1	1
Faggots		1	1			
Ham		3	3			-
Ham and Chicken Roll Lamb Chop and		1	1			_
Sausages, canned		1	1			
Luncheon Meat		2	2			
Meat and Bean Preparation		1	1			
Meat Pudding		1	1		—	
Meat Extract		1	1			_
Meat Paste	_	_ 2	2	_		
Pork Pie		1	1		_	_
Sausages Steak and Kidney Pudding		9	9			
Steak and Kidney Pudding		1	1			
Milk	47		47	—		
Milk, best of		l	1			
Milk, condensed		5	5		_	
Milk, evaporated Milk Shake Syrup		1	1			
Mushrooms, canned		1	1			
Mustard		3	3	and the same of	1	1
Oil, castor		1	1			
Peanut Butter		1	1			
Pie filling, blackcurrant		1	1		1	1
Pudding, Christmas	—	1	1			
Rarebit		1	1			
Rennet Seecharin Tableta	_	1	2		discription of	
Saccharin Tablets Salad Cream		2 4	2 4			
Sauces		3	3		2	2
Seasoning		1	1			
Soft Drinks		10	10		1	1
Soup Powder		3	3			
Soup Cube		1	1		—	
Spirits	25	_	25		_	******
Spice, curry powder		2	2			
Spreads, savoury	—	2	2		_	
Spreads, sweet						
Carried forward	72	200	272	_	16	16

Article		r samples e Informal	xamined Total		er adultera Informal	ted etc. Total
Brought forward	72	200	272		16	16
Suet		4	4			
Tea, celery		1	1			
Tomatoes		4	4		_	
Tomato Juice		1	1			
Vegetables		2	2	_	1	1
Drugs						
Aluminium Hydroxide Gel		1	1			
Ammoniated Quinine		1	1			
Antiseptic Lozenges		1	1			
Aspirin		3	3			
Bronchial Linctus		1	1			
Cod Liver Oil		1	1			
Cold Mixture		2	2		1	1
Cold Tablets		1	1		With confusion and the Confusi	
Cough Mixture		8	8		1	1
Codeine Linctus	***************************************	1	1			
Chilblain Tablets		1	1	—		
Glycerine		1	1	_		
Headache Tablets		1	1			
Health Salt Tablets		1	1			—
Haemorrhoid Preparation	error to do comme	1	1			
Indigestion Tablets		3	3			
Iron Tablets		2	2			
Laxative		2	2			
Liver Pills		1	1			
Nerve Tonic Tablets		l	1		1	1
Mentholated Balsam		1	l			
Milk of Magnesia Tablets		l	1			—
Rheumatism Remedy		1	1		_	
Sedative Capsules		1	1	·		_
Sedative Tablets		1	1			—
Sore Throat Lozenges	-	1	1	*******		_
Stomach Tablets Tonic Tablets	-	1	1			
Tonic Tablets Tonic		1	1		_	
Vitamin Tablets		1	1	-	TT 10 shows man	
Yeast Tablets	_	1	4		_	
Total	72	256	328	and the second second	20	20

ACTION TAKEN REGARDING UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Ready to Eat Manufacturer agreed to alter method of

Chip Potatoes: manufacture.

Bread (2 samples): Warning letter sent by Council.

Pork Brawn: Attention of manufacturers drawn to small

amount of iron staining.

Bread: Warning letter sent by Council.

Corned Beef: Attention of importers drawn to rusted condition

of inside of tin.

Bread: Warning letter sent by Council.

Chocolate Sponge Rancid. Severe cautionary letter to retailers.

Bar Cake:

Cheese Sauce: Incorrectly labelled — Manufacturers have

amended label.

Cold Mixture: Incorrectly labelled — Manufacturers have

amended label.

Blackcurrant

Pie Filling:

No action.

Cherryade: No action.

Bread: Cautionary letter sent by Council.

Nerve Tablets: Old stock, Manufacturers replacing with correctly

labelled packing.

Bread: No action.

Sauce: Incorrectly labelled — Manufacturers have

amended label.

Cough Treatment: Incorrectly labelled—Manufacturer has amended

label.

Scotch Whisky Importers' attention drawn to Public Analyst's opinion.

Prepared Mustard: Incorrectly labelled — Manufacturers have

amended label.

Chopped Pork: Total meat content 82.5 per cent. Attention of

manufacturers drawn to Public Analyst's opinion, in the absence of a legal standard, no further

action possible.

